

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 to 7, 9, 15, 43-46 and 48 are allowed. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner made an initial objection to claim 2 given that Mn was contained within parenthesis. The parenthesis have been deleted as requested by the Examiner. In addition, claims 29 and 43 have been amended to insert the word “comprising.”

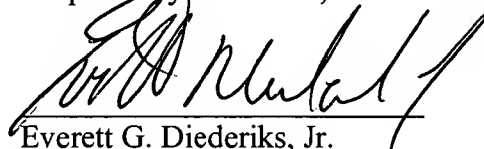
Section 4 of the Office Action sets forth various rejections of claims 1-3, 8, 10-14, 17, 19-28, 47, 49, 51 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim what the applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that claims 1 and 51 are indefinite because it is unclear what type of ratio is intended by “1:1 ratio” of organic solvent and silicone resin, claims 8 and 47 are indefinite because it is unclear what type of percentage is intended by “25-75% spinel and 25-75% acid”, claims 10 and 49 are indefinite because it is unclear what is intended by “2-10%” crosslinking agent, and claims 14-27 are indefinite because it is unclear what is intended by “methyl to phenyl ratio of between 30:70 and 70:30”. The applicant would like to point out that the organic solvent and silicone resin (which includes the methyl and phenyl) are constituents of the binder component and the spinel, while the acid and the crosslinking agent are constituents of the pigmenting component. Since the binder component and the pigmenting component are referred to in terms of volume (page 9, lines 6-8), it would be clear to one skilled in the art that the constituents of each of these components are also measured in terms of volume. Obviously, the Examiner has recognized this point by making a rejection under 112, 2nd paragraph. In order to address the rejections, claims 1, 8, 10, 14, 27, 47, 49 and 51 have been amended. Also note that the acid percentages in claims 8 and 47 have been revised to correct typographical errors and for consistency with the original disclosure, such as on page 7, lines 21-24.

In Section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner also states that the breadth of claim 21 is confusing because it is unclear if the oven is coated with a liquid or hardened composition. Claim 21 has been amended to remove the phrase "a liquid at room temperature." Presumably, this phrase is the point of contention even though this limitations simply added a further detail to the claim as originally presented. Regardless, based on the cancellation of this language, withdrawal of this formal rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims based on prior art, although the Applicant does not necessarily agree with the various positions taken by the Examiner, the Applicant has amended the claims in order to further the prosecution of the application. Particularly, the Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claim 22 into claim 21, placed claims 25 and 28 in independent form, and added many of the limitations of claim 53 into claim 50. Since claims 22, 25 and 28 have not been rejected based on prior art and independent claim 50 now sets forth a specific ratio of the pigmenting component to the binder component to the hardening agent not at all disclosed or suggested in the prior art, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicant has placed all the claims in this application in clear condition for allowance.

Based on the above, it should be readily apparent that the Applicant has made an earnest attempt to clearly place the entire application in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any additional concerns regarding this application which the undersigned can aid the Examiner in expediting the prosecution thereof, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Everett G. Diederiks, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Everett G. Diederiks, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 33,323

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DIEDERIKS & WHITE LAW, PLC
12471 Dillingham Square, #301
Woodbridge, VA 22192
Tel: (703) 583-8300
Fax: (703) 583-8301